

Gender and diversity for Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments – Field School

[Gender and Diversity / Southeast Asia](#) / May 2017

Background: The International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies's (IFRC) [Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment](#) (VCA) is a key assessment process used by IFRC and its member National Societies for participatory community assessments. Through the VCA process, it allows us to understand people's exposure to and capacity to be resilient to natural hazards. The VCA also enables local priorities to be identified and appropriate action taken to reduce communities' risk to disasters. It eventually assists in the design and development of programmes, drawing on sustainable solutions from within the community.

The aims of VCA are to:

- assess risks and hazards facing communities and the capacities they have for dealing with them;
- involve communities, local authorities and humanitarian and development organizations in the assessment from the outset;
- draw up action plans to prepare for and respond to the identified risks;
- identify risk-reduction activities to prevent or lessen the effects of expected hazards, risks and vulnerabilities.¹

In order to achieve the aims of the VCA we must systematically apply a gender and diversity approach to the assessment tools, analysis and methodology. We must, therefore, not look only at a community as an entity in itself but apply this approach to ensure we engage with and understand the needs, capacities, priorities of women, men, boys, and girls, as well as people from diverse social, economic and religious groups that make up the community.

Gender and diversity is essential and fundamental to the work we do within the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement. We know that women, men, boys and girls prepare and respond to disasters in different ways due to their roles in the household, in society and due to the expectations placed on them because they are male or female. When assessing resilience to disasters, factors related to a person's diversity are intrinsically linked to their gender and these can compound risk and vulnerability. The IFRC gender and diversity approach provides a framework and an analytical tool to allow us to understand what already exists within communities and analyse this information, ensuring we leave no one behind, therefore achieving greater individual and community resilience.

Rationale: In 2015-16 National Societies in Southeast Asia requested guidelines to ensure the VCA approach and the toolbox were conducted in a gender and diversity sensitive way. National level training on this approach was also being requested. Therefore this Regional Field School aims to support the first step of the process to allow for training and sensitization of guidelines, which can then be rolled out at the National Level.

Objectives:

1. Participants will gain an overview of gender and diversity key concepts and practical application, including gender and diversity analysis
2. Participants will be trained on the adapted tools and methodology for the gender and diversity VCA

¹ Sourced from <http://www.ifrc.org/vca>

3. Participants will experience field testing of the tools including planning, implementation of assessment and analysis of information
4. Participants will form an informal working group to feedback on the tools and guidelines to inform the global revision process.

Outcomes:

At the end of the training, participants from each National Society will have increased skills and capacity to incorporate Gender and Diversity in VCA's at the National Level, either through training or incorporating approaches in their Disaster Risk Reduction programming.

To achieve this outcome the field school will provide:

1. A deepened understanding of gender and diversity approaches for the VCA
2. Skills and resources (including financial) to implement the training/review VCA toolbox in their National Society and feel confident using this approach within their community-based programming

Workshop format

Timeframe: Six days (4 in class and 2 field based)

Location: Thai Red Cross, CBDRR project site. Field visit will be conducted in Thai language and according to Thai Red Cross' CBDRR process. Translation will be ensured for other participants.

Expected participants:

- National Societies that requested these guidelines and trainings as part of their annual work plan, namely: Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos, Philippines, Malaysia. As part of this request National Societies committed to conduct a review of VCA tools / conduct a National Level training within 6 months of the field school
- To promote cross-regional co-operation, 2 spaces will be reserved for participants from South Asia or the Pacific (depending on need and interest of National Societies in these regions and in consultation with IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Office and available funding)
- Partner National Societies and IFRC colleagues who work directly with Cambodia, Laos, Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia and can support on the National Level training within 6 months.

For further information please contact:

Ms. Christina Haneef

Senior Gender and Diversity Officer,
IFRC Country Cluster Support Team, Bangkok
E-mail: christina.haneef@ifrc.org